MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: May I know whether the Chief Engineer has received any petition from the contractor for the refund of the amout he deposited as earnest money?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: The refund has been ordered some months ago?

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: But the gentleman says that there is no information about it.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: But it was not the contractor who made the deposit. One Mr. Kuttan Pillai deposited Rs. 13,000.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: Has he given any tender for the work?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: He has not given any tender. But he offered to do the work at a rate less than the tendered rate.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: What has happened to the remetalling of the road? Is it finished or is it pending?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is still pending. Arrangements are being made to do it.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): Why was the road not taken up by Government?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: We called for tenders. A contractor tendered for it. We sent an estimate to Government and got sanction. In the meanwhile one of the local gentlemen said he would do it for a great deal less money. We asked him to deposit the money, and write an agreement. When it came to writing the agreement he said he wanted the estimated rates....

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: I was referring to Question No. 324.

MR. K. A. MAHOMED: Question 323, Sir. To an identical question, the reply is, the work is in progress. Here the reply is different.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: That related to the ordinary annual maintenance.

Chavara-Sasthamcotta road.

323. *MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fact that an amount is sanctioned for metalling the remaining three miles of Chavara-Sasthamcotta road in the Quilon P. W. D. Division;

(*b*) whether any tender has been received for the work with necessary earnest money deposited; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) above is in the affirmative, whether the tender has been accepted and the work started?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The question does not arise in view of the answer to part (*b*).

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